

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of forming a blocking gel within a wellbore within a subterranean formation, the method comprising the steps of:
5 forming a base fluid by blending an aqueous fluid and carboxymethyl guar;
 adding a crosslinking agent to the base fluid to form a crosslinkable gel; and
 pumping the crosslinkable gel into the subterranean formation.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein a gel breaker is further introduced to the
10 crosslinkable gel.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the gel breaker is introduced to the crosslinkable gel after the crosslinkable gel is pumped into the subterranean formation.
4. The method of Claim 2, wherein the blocking gel is contacted with the gel
15 breaker subsequent to pumping of the crosslinkable gel into the subterranean formation.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the crosslinking agent contains zirconium.
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6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the pH of the base fluid is between from about 4.0 to about 11.0.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the base fluid contains between from
25 about 40 to about 120 pounds of carboxymethyl guar per 1000 gallons of aqueous fluid.
8. The method of Claim 5, wherein the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of zirconium lactate, zirconium glycolate and zirconium lactate triethanolamine.

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9. A method of forming a blocking gel within a wellbore, the method comprising the steps of:

forming an aqueous base fluid comprising between from about 40 to about 120 pounds of carboxymethyl guar per 1000 gallons of aqueous fluid;

5 adding to said aqueous base fluid a crosslinking agent to form a gelled crosslinkable fluid; and

pumping the gelled crosslinkable fluid into a subterranean formation adjacent the wellbore.

10 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein a gel breaker is further introduced to the gelled crosslinkable fluid.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the gel breaker is an enzyme.

15 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the gelled crosslinkable fluid is contacted with the enzyme breaker subsequent to placement of the gelled crosslinkable fluid into the subterranean formation.

20 13. The method of Claim 9, wherein the crosslinking agent contains zirconium.

14. The method of Claim 9, wherein the pH of the aqueous base fluid is between from about 4.0 to about 11.0.

25 15. A method of forming a blocking gel within a wellbore within a subterranean formation, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a crosslinkable gel comprising carboxymethyl guar and a crosslinking agent; and

30 pumping the crosslinkable gel into a subterranean formation adjacent the wellbore.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the crosslinking agent contains zirconium.

5 17. The method of Claim 15, wherein the crosslinkable gel further comprises a gel breaker.

18. A method of controlling fluid loss from an oil well during drilling, completion and/or workover operations which comprises:

10 forming a gelled, aqueous base crosslinkable fluid comprising carboxymethyl guar and a crosslinking agent;

pumping the crosslinkable fluid into a subterranean formation; and

forming a blocking gel within a wellbore within the subterranean formation.

15 19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the crosslinking agent contains zirconium.

20. The method of Claim 18, wherein the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of zirconium lactate, zirconium glycolate and zirconium lactate
20 triethanolamine.